

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5 77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

September 24, 2007

Mr. Johnny W. Reising United States Department of Energy Fernald Closure Project 175 Tri-County Parkway Springdale, Ohio 45246 SR-6J

RE: Surface Water Issue West of Waste

Pit 3

Dear Mr. Reising:

This United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has completed its review of the United States Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) August 31, 2007, letter regarding a path forward for addressing the elevated total uranium concentrations in surface water found west of former Waste Pit 3.

U.S. DOE proposes excavating six inches of surface soil in the area, grading to reduce or eliminate future ponding, treatment with lime or phosphate, and revegetation. Further, future sampling will occur and it will be addressed as an operation and maintenance activity as part of the institutional control process.

Therefore, U.S. EPA approves U.S. DOE's proposed path forward for this maintenance action. Once the excavation has occurred U.S. EPA will be in a position to approve the remaining soil certification package for this area, and U.S. DOE can submit the interim Operable Unit 5 Remedial Action Report.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (312) 886-0992.

Sincerely,

James A. Saric

Remedial Project Manager

SFD Remedial Response Branch #1

cc: Tom Schneider, OEPA-SWDO

Frank Johnston, Stoller

Jane Powell, U.S. DOE Fernald